

Serial No. 09/751,975

7

199-1933 (VGT 0137 PA)

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 stand rejected. Claims 6 and 8-21 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The Examiner rejected claims 1,2,5-10 and 13-15 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Happ. (US 4,646,954). Claims 1 and 4 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Semmer (787,122). Claims 16 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Sutton (4,648,298). Claims 3 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Happ in view of Deshet (4,856,399). Claims 4 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Happ in view of Chakrabarti (6,247,625). Claims 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sutton in view of Happ.

112, Second Paragraph rejections

Claims 6 and 8-21 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The indefiniteness was identified by the examiner in regards to the transport element automatically positioning the splitting element along the pre-scored planes. Although the Applicant firmly believes the grammatical use of positioning reflects the adjustment of the relative position of two objects and was therefore correct, the claims have been amended to hopefully alleviate the necessity of any such philosophical arguments. Similarly, the claims as they stand do not imply (nor due the figures or description) that the shield element covers multiple boards in the board array. It simply is claimed to be attached to the multiple board array. Yet again, the Applicant has respectfully amended the claim to reduce the number of issues from which possible disagreement of patentability may arise.

1,2,5-10 and 13-15 under 35 USC 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 1,2,5-10 and 13-15 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Happ. (US 4,646,954). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and requests reconsideration. The Happ reference teaches an apparatus for the bending and separation of Railroad rails. These are large steel structures. There is no possible way for any torque inducing element in the Happ reference to a load multiple board

Serial No. 09/751,975

8

199-1933 (VGT 0137 PA)

array without loading the plurality of electrical components as claimed by the present invention. The Happ reference does not align a pre-scored plane, it scores the plane itself. Furthermore, as the Happ reference teaches self-made cuts into the railroad rail, it does not need and therefore does not teach a transport element that aligns the pre-scored plane with a splitting element. This is because Happ is non-analogous art. Happ fails to teach edge loading and torque inducing without loading electrical components mounted on a circuit board. The device taught by Happ neither contemplates nor teaches such limitations and therefore the rejection is improper. With regards to claim 1, in addition, present amendments further deserve consideration.

1 and 4 rejected under 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 1 and 4 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Semmer (787,122). The Applicant respectfully traverses the argument that the device in Semmer would induce torque without loading electrical components. However, due to present amendments, this rejection is no longer relevant.

16 and 19 rejected under 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 16 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Sutton (4,648,298). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. The Sutton references teaches the use of multiple shearing arms to split individual boards off a multiple board array. This is not the same as inducing torque over a splitting element. Shear arms require both space and no wire extensions over the split plane as anything near the split plane will be sheared off themselves. The present invention, however, claims inducing torque to induce a split on a splitting element. This is an entirely different process than that taught by Sutton and has advantages over Sutton such the present invention allows electrical components to be positioned anywhere on the upper surface including over the split plane. Therefore, the rejection is requested to be removed.

Serial No. 09/751,975

9

199-1933 (VGT 0137 PA)

Claims 3 and 11 rejected under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 3 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Happ in view of Deshet (4,856,399). The Office Action asserts that Happ teaches the limitations with the exception of the stabilizing elements, that Deshet teaches such a stabilizing element, and that it would have been obvious to combine.

The Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections and incorporates by reference the arguments presented above regarding the inapplicability of the Happ reference. Namely the objections to the Happ reference; non-analogous nature of both Happ and Deshet; failure of either reference to teach: edge loading, positioning along a pre-scored plane; splitting along a pre-scored plane; reducing board flex; and torque induction without loading electrical components mounted on the board array. The Applicant again asserts that these are tangible, real, and structural limitation not taught by either reference. The stabilizing element of the present invention "reduces board flex" while the Deshet blank holder 3 pins down the blank for stamping. A multiple circuit board with electronic components placed into Deshet would result in a plurality of destroyed electronic components. The Applicant therefore asserts the aforementioned rejections are improper and should be reconsidered.

Claims 4 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 4 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Happ in view of Chakrabarti (6,247,625). Again, the Applicant respectfully traverses both the underlying rejection with regard to Happ and the 103(a) combination rejection with Chakrabarti. Neither reference teaches or is concerned with torque application that does not load installed electrical components and fails to teach such a structural limitation. The Applicant, respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sutton in view of Happ. Again, the Applicant incorporates by reference the traversal of

Serial No. 09/751,975

10

199-1933 (VGT 0137 PA)

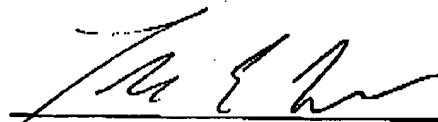
both references both alone and together. Sutton teaches shear application not torque and neither reference teaches application of edge loading torque without loading electrical components. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for his assistance. In light of the above remarks, Applicant submits that all objections and rejections are now overcome. Applicant has added no new material to the application. The application is now in condition for allowance and expeditious notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments that would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Donohue
Reg. No. 44,660
Artz & Artz, P.C.
28333 Telegraph Road, Suite 250
Southfield, MI 48034
(248) 223-9500
(248) 223-9522 (Fax)

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